Embroidery Software

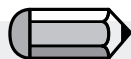## USER'S MANUAL

Auto Cross-Stitch™

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Inside Auto Cross-Stitch

Auto Cross-Stitch is designed to **automatically digitize** an image (artwork) into an embroidery design with **Cross-Stitches**. Auto Cross-Stitch has a **Wizard** that walks you through a step-by-step process for creating an **automatic** embroidery design. In this segment, each step and process will be defined.

See the section called **"How to Use Auto Cross-Stitch"** for a quick description of using the Auto Cross-Stitch wizard.

Open Wizard

*You must launch the Software (see section called "How to Open FUTURA) to use the **Auto Cross-Stitch** wizard.*

Step	Action	Result
>1	Select **Auto Cross-Stitch...** from the **Create** drop-down menu.	Auto Cross-Stitch Wizard/Introduction page will open.
>2	Click **Next**.	

>1: Open Image
This is the step to choose the image, or artwork to be used with **Auto Cross-Stitch**. If you are familiar with any Cross-Stitch embroidery, you will appreciate the fact that, **simple is better** when it comes to artwork. It is important to use a clean image for this process. A vector type Image (**.WMF**) like **"clipart"** works best. If the image was **scanned**, it is a **Bitmap** type (millions of pixels) image – either **.bmp** or **.jpg**, and must have a reasonably "high resolution". **150-300 DPI** is good. The software will **reduce the colors** so that it is feasible to stitch the art in embroidery.

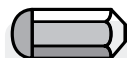| Step	Action	Result
>1	Choose the **Select** from the Select Image box.	The Open Image dialogue box will open.
>2	Choose **Image** (of your choice) from folder where your images are stored.	
>3	Click **Next**.	

>2: Crop Image

In the 2nd step the Wizard is supplying the option to **Crop** (cut) the **Image**. Though it is **not necessary** to crop, there may be some areas that are not desired in the embroidery design.

Step	Action	Result
>1	Click on **square** on the frame around image.	
>2	Drag **square** to Crop.	
>3	Click **Next**.	

>3: Set Dimensions

The 3rd step is your chance to change the **Dimensions** (size) of the image.

Step	Action	Result
>1	Click **Width** (or **Height**) box.	
>2	Type **new value**.	**Both** dimensions will change at once.
>3	Click **Next**.	

It is possible to *change the Unit* (of measurement) from *CM* to *MM* or *Inches* in the *"Units"* box.

>4: Color Selection

In this step the software is prepared to reduce the number of colors in the image. The Wizard is **very** self-explanatory. Remember when, in referring to a "Bitmap" type of image, we said it has "millions of pixels"? How many threads/colors do you want to change?

Step	Action	Result
>1	Check **Reduce Colors Automatically** in the Color set suggestion box.	This box is enabled by **default**.
>2	Click **Suggest**.	The Wizard will look at the image and suggest some colors.

*1. It is possible to "Pan" the image in the small screen on the right-hand side of the **dialogue** box.*
*Simply **right-click** and **drag** the image.*

*2. It is also possible to **delete** segments that you do not want to be digitized. Simply highlight the color in the suggested color box, and select "Remove"*

Step	Action	Result
	or	
>1	Check **Reduce Colors to** and **Type** in **number of** desired (thread) colors.	
>2	Click **Suggest**.	The Wizard will look at the image and suggest (the amount entered) colors.
>3	Click **Next**.	

>:5 Cross-Stitch

This 5th step is designed to offer some control over the way that the software "automatically" handles the Cross-Stitch elements of the image. The **size of the Cross-Stitch and connection policy** (how to travel **between blocks**) will affect the outcome of the Cross-Stitch design. It is also possible to stitch the "background color" of the art (often, white) – or not.

Step	Action	Result
>1	Click **Cross Size** and move up or down.	The Cross-Stitch will change size according to the set value. The preview of the image will reflect proposed size.
>2	Check **use a Jump Stitch** box.	All Blocks will be connected with a Jump Stitch.

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Step	Action	Result
>3	**Stitch Background:** Check **Stitch Background** if color is vital to design.	
>4	Click **Finish**.	The image will be processed **showing progress bars** until complete.

Voila! Now, you have an embroidery design that was created with a minimum of labor, and a maximum of control.

Image 1
finished embroidery design

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Inside Scan Image

Scan Image

Scan Image is a function used to **Scan an Image**, or take a "snap-shot" of the physical artwork. A scanner must first be installed on your computer. Since each scanner has its own software, the instructions are generalized. You must become familiar with your own scanner and software.

How to Scan Artwork

Step	Action	Result
>1	Place **artwork** on the scanner bed.	
>2	Select **File/Scan Image**.	The window for the scanning software will open.
>3	Select **Preview** (if available).	The scanner will take a snap-shot of your artwork for your approval.
>4	Select **Scan**.	The scanner will take a snapshot of your artwork employing any options that you selected and bring the image **into your screen**.

Your Scanner Here

Tip! *for **step>3***
1. This is your opportunity to crop your artwork to capture the portion that you desire and make desired changes.

*2. A **DPI** of 100-150 is sufficient for digitizing **manually**. If "Magic Wand" is to be used, choose a DPI of 200 or more.*

Note
If you want to save an image to the computer, you must scan and save it at the Desktop.
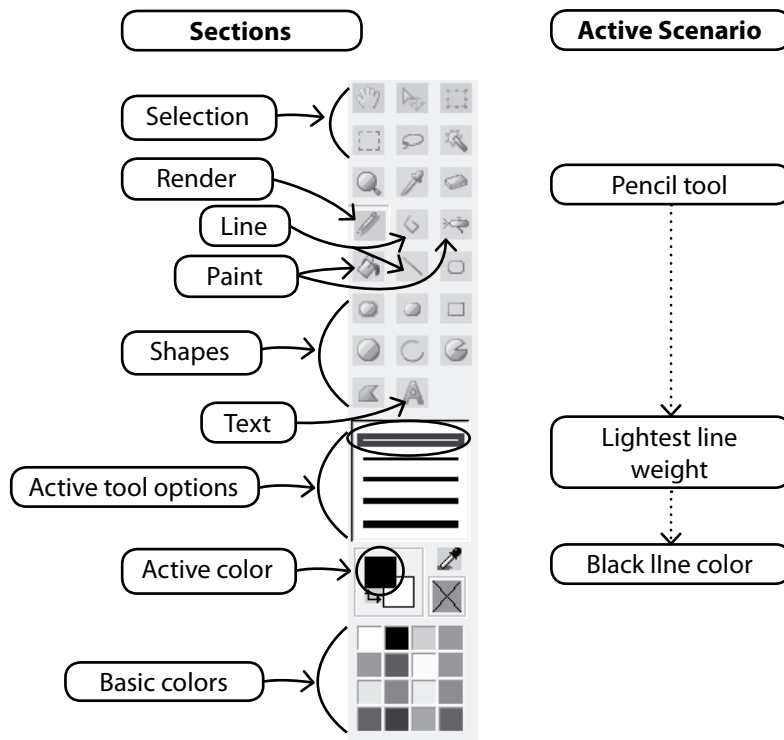
Inside Draw Package

FUTURA has a bitmap drawing package on-board. Create new drawings and modify existing images to be used for embroidery.

Use Draw Package
Choose "New Bitmap" in the Create drop-down menu. You will be directed to the Draw Package screen after approving or setting the size for the drawing.
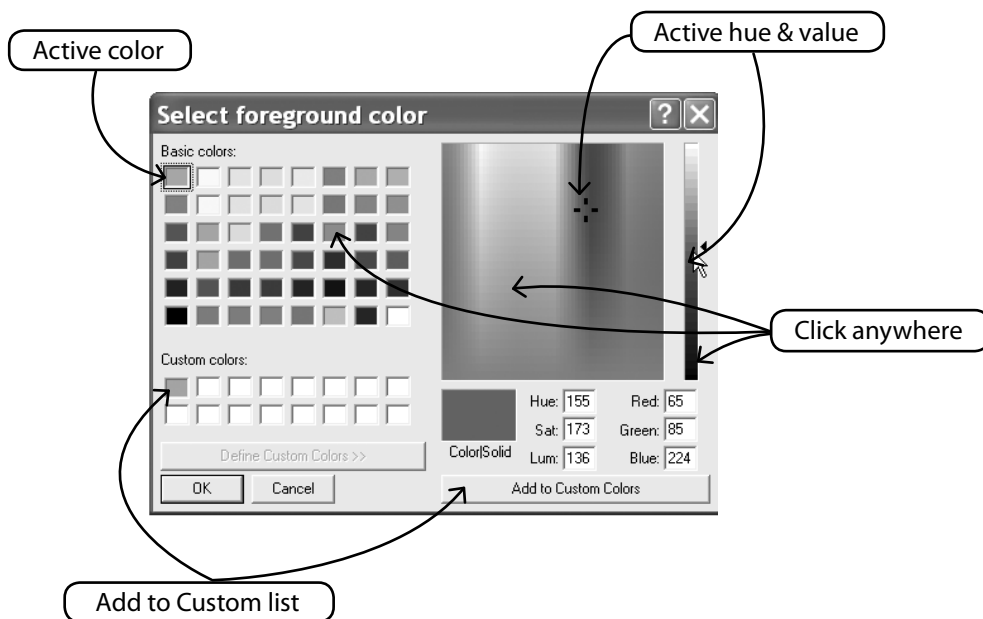
Main Tool Bar
The tool bar has different sections for drawing needs. Just click on a tool, and draw in the white box.

Sections　　　　　　　　　**Active Scenario**

Selection

Render

Line

Paint

Shapes

Text

Active tool options

Active color

Basic colors

Pencil tool

Lightest line weight

Black lIne color

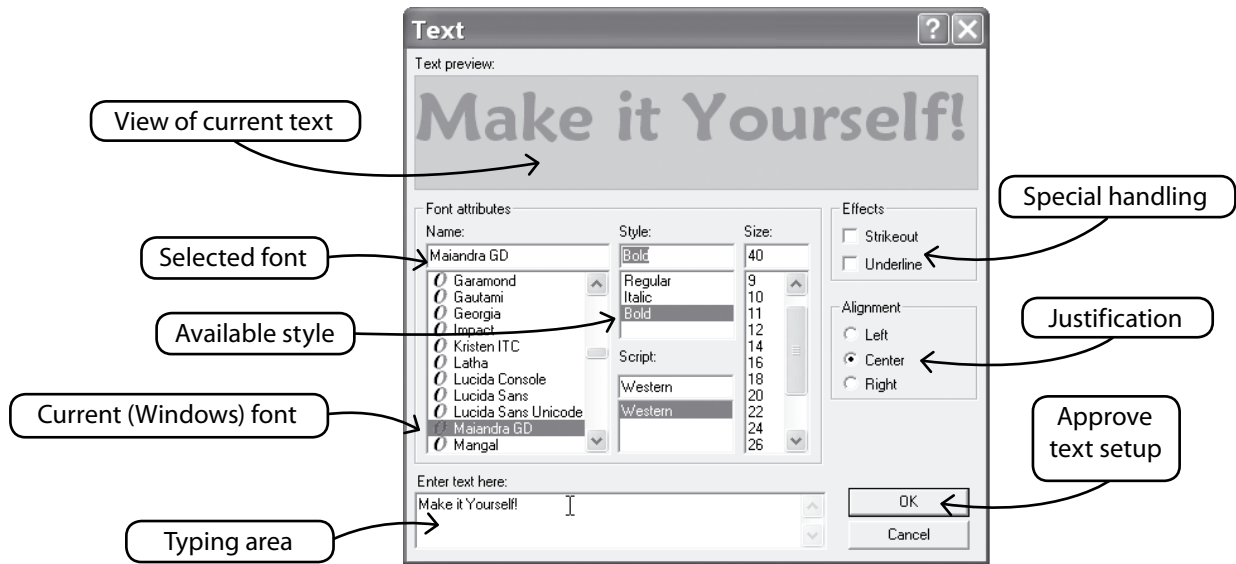Futura Auto Cross-Stitch Option - English

Change Color

Whether you are about to use a drawing, painting, or text tool, you may need to establish a color for drawing. If there isn't a color in the basic color blocks, double-click the foreground (front) color to open the color palette. Choose a color and value, and save as a Custom color if desired.
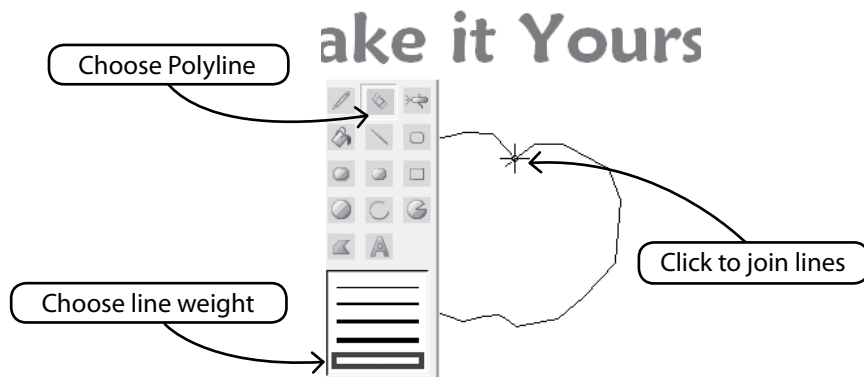
Active color

Active hue & value

Select foreground color

Basic colors:

Custom colors:

Define Custom Colors >>

OK   Cancel

Color|Solid

Hue: 155   Red: 65
Sat: 173   Green: 85
Lum: 136   Blue: 224

Add to Custom Colors

Click anywhere

Add to Custom list

Create Text

If there is lettering in your logo, create it with the Draw Package. Simply click on the Text icon and follow the dialogue box.

View of current text

Special handling

Selected font

Available style

Current (Windows) font

Justification

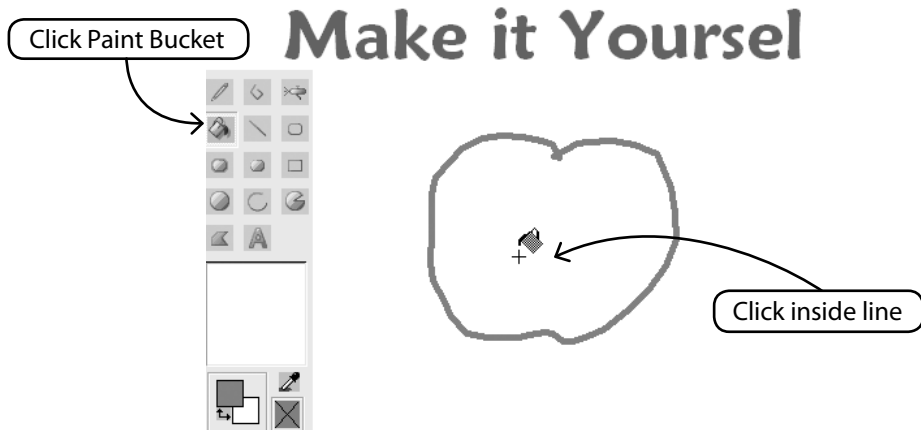Approve text setup

Typing area

Draw With Polyline

There is a Pencil and Polyline tool for freehand drawing. Use the Polyline like digitizing with left clicks at short distances (for curves). Simply right-click to complete the line.
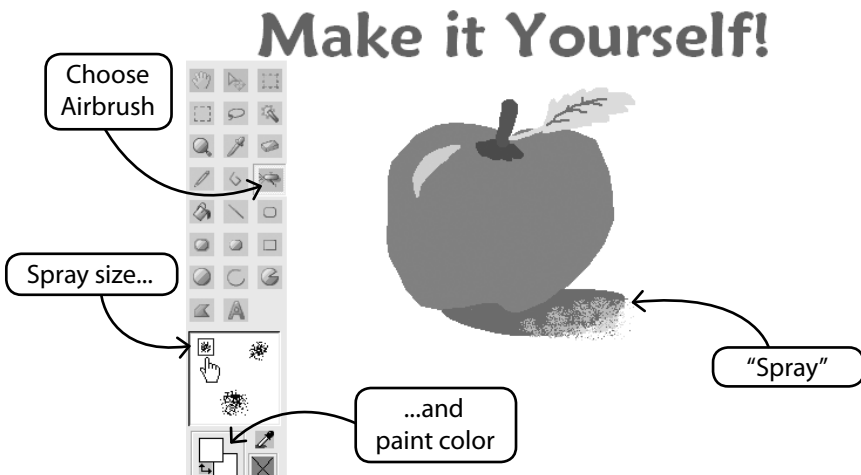
Choose Polyline

Click to join lines

Choose line weight

Fill With Color

If you close a line, it can be filled with color using the Paint Bucket.
Also, make geometric shapes with the different tools.

Make it Yoursel

Click Paint Bucket

Click inside line

Continue Drawing

Use all the different tools and have fun making a new drawing.
Use the Airbrush to add sophistication.

Make it Yourself!
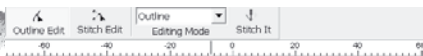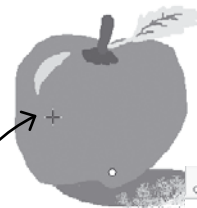
Choose
Airbrush

Spray size...

...and
paint color

"Spray"

Use New Drawing

Exit the Draw Package and create embroidery in Stitch & Sew.
Use Magic Wand to make easy work of it.

Click to exit
Draw Package

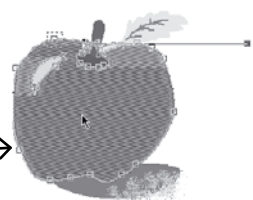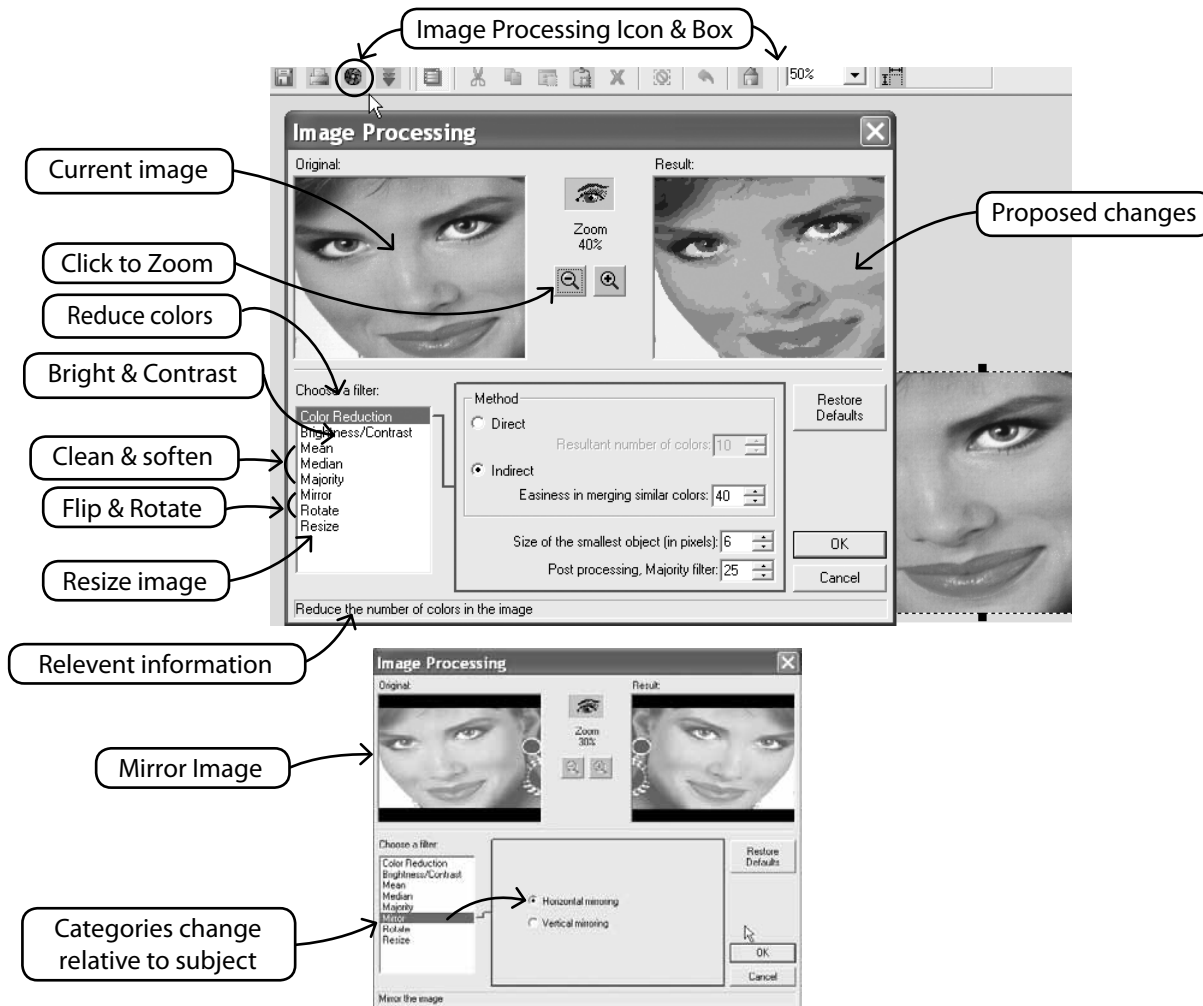Choose
Magic Wand
& click!

Modify Existing Images

The Draw Package has a sophisticated Image Processor to enhance
images. For example, most images need to have "Brightness & Con-
trast" adjusted to be a good candidate for PhotoStitch.

Import Image and Open Draw Package

Choose "Import Image" from the Create drop-down menu.
Then choose "Draw Package". Click on the Image Processing icon
and choose from a variety of options.

EXPERIMENT for desired results.

Image Processing Icon & Box

Current image

Proposed changes

Click to Zoom

Reduce colors

Bright & Contrast

Clean & soften

Flip & Rotate

Resize image

Relevent information

Mirror Image

Categories change
relative to subject

Image Processing

Original: | Result:

Zoom
40%

Choose a filter:
Color Reduction
Brightness/Contrast
Mean
Median
Majority
Mirror
Rotate
Resize

Method
Direct
Resultant number of colors: 10
Indirect
Easiness in merging similar colors: 40
Size of the smallest object (in pixels): 6
Post processing, Majority filter: 25

Restore Defaults
OK
Cancel

Reduce the number of colors in the image

Image Processing

Original: | Result:

Zoom
30%

Choose a filter:
Color Reduction
Brightness/Contrast
Mean
Median
Majority
Mirror
Rotate
Resize

Horizontal mirroring
Vertical mirroring

Restore Defaults
OK
Cancel

Mirror the image

Draw on Image, too

Have you ever had the irresistible urge to paint a moustache on your friend? Now's your chance. Use any of the drawing tools to further enhance the image.

Draw new eye color

Enhancing images for PhotoStitch helps to make better quality. For example, draw darker nostrils; thicker eyelashes, lips, and brows; add or erase hair... "Bolder is better" for PhotoStitch!

Inside Show/hide image

Turn on or off image, as background on the working screen.